

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS  
A UNIT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
ITHACA, NEW YORK

DEANE W. MALOTT, PRESIDENT  
M. P. CATHERWOOD, DEAN

March 31, 1958

Dear Colleague:

At the 1957 Annual Meeting of the A.E.A. a group of about fifty people met to discuss the desirability of forming some sort of association of economists working on the U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe and related areas. The discussion at that time was somewhat inconclusive, but led to the formation of a small working committee to lay the groundwork for such an association. In tackling this task the committee was considerably encouraged by a flow of letters offering support and assistance, which served to dispell our hesitation to proceed.

The first formal meeting of the committee took place at the offices of The Rand Corporation in Washington on February 14th. Present were: Joseph Berliner (Syracuse), Gardner Clark (Cornell), John Hardt (CEIR), Hans Heymann (RAND), and Herbert Levine (Harvard). Illness or prior commitments prevented Leon Herman (Library of Congress), Holland Hunter (Haverford), Nicolas Spulber (Indiana) and others from attending. Because of his special interest in government-academic relations, we invited Nathan Pelcovits of the External Research Staff of the State Department to take part in our discussions.

The group constituted itself as an interim committee and assumed responsibility for making all arrangements necessary to have our organization fully in operation by the time of the 1958 A.E.A. meeting in Chicago.

The committee hopes to accomplish the following by December 1958:

- (1) Inaugurate a quarterly bulletin covering the following items of interest to the field: information on new research materials; descriptions of current research in progress by individuals and institutions; bibliographies; personal notes of professional interest; reports on conferences; communications to our profession from interested groups such as learned societies, foundations and government; and, dissemination of special reports or other items that might be of interest to us all. This publication might also provide a forum for discussion of problems of interest to our membership. We hope to be able to send out an unpretentious first issue in June.

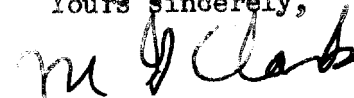
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- (2) Explore the feasibility of a reprint-exchange system and of other means of improving scholarly communication within the profession.
- (3) Examine the possibility of improving the amount and quality of contact between the governmental and academic research communities, particularly as it relates to mutual access to research materials and products.
- (4) Draft a constitution and by-laws for the association, to be circulated by mail in time to receive criticism and formulate a final draft that will meet fairly general approval when submitted at the meeting in December.
- (5) Arrange an informal luncheon for all interested persons at the 1958 A.E.A. meeting, intended primarily as a social affair, but reserving enough time to transact the small amount of formal business necessary to place the organization on a permanent footing. This includes the adoption of the constitution and by-laws and the election of regular officers.

Our committee will welcome your suggestions on any of these five points or on additional areas that we might look into. As an interim committee, we feel that our objectives at this stage should be modest. We would appreciate your candid expressions of opinion as to whether we have exceeded the limits of our mandate or fallen short of your expectations.

The practical problems of conducting our business have been greatly facilitated by the generous offer of the Maxwell School and the Board of Russian Studies of Syracuse University to put their administrative and secretarial facilities at our disposal. Joseph Berliner has agreed to act as Executive Secretary of our committee for the year. In the future, please address communications to: Joseph S. Berliner, Department of Economics, Syracuse University, Syracuse 10, New York.

Yours sincerely,



M. Gardner Clark